

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute paragraph 10 on page 1 with the following paragraph:

[0010] The present invention is directed to a ~~query interpretation~~ method, and system and a computer-readable storage medium storing computer-executable instructions for query interpretation that uses a combination of context-independent and contextual evaluation to compute interpretations for multiple-term queries. The present invention can be used to search a collection of items, each of which is associated with one or more terms. In certain embodiments, query interpretation involves generating several candidate multiple-term interpretations and scoring them to select one or more interpretations. In certain embodiments, query interpretation involves identifying single-term interpretations for the terms in the query, determining context-independent scores for those single-term interpretations, identifying a plurality of candidate multiple-term interpretations, determining a contextual score for each candidate multiple-term interpretation, and generating one or more multiple-term interpretations that are optimal with respect to a combination of the context-independent and contextual scoring functions.